From: Devereux, Jan
To: Dan Gruen
Subject: Re: Please reject the BDS anti-Israel Proposal
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 8:07:03 PM

The rumored resolution is not on our agenda. The sheer volume of email received on an issue that is not even before us makes it impossible for me to reply individually to all. I will note your opinion on the matter.

Jan Devereux
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For updates on City Council issues and events visit http://jandevereux.com/

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From: Dan Gruen <dangruen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 11:32:26 AM
To: City Council; McGovern, Marc
Cc: Devereux, Jan; Carlone, Dennis; Kelley, Craig; Mallon, Alanna; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Simmons, Denise; Toomey, Tim; Zondervan, Quinton
Subject: Please reject the BDS anti-Israel Proposal

I implore the council to reject this misguided, counterproductive, unfair and biased proposal for a multitude of reasons.

First among them: it is biased and yes, antisemitic. It may not be antisemitic in intent for all who support it, but it is in practice and effect, which if anything is worse. It attacks Israel, the one and only Jewish state in the entire world, when its record on human rights, gay and transgender issues, a legitimate court system, an open press, and humanitarian aid across the world regardless of the race or religion of its recipients is far better than that of numerous countries with known and severe human rights violations. We had no difficulty branding as racist the administration's proposed immigration policies when most — though not all — of the countries targeted had majority Muslim populations. We had no problem recoiling with disgust when the administration attacked immigrants from specific countries when we saw that they were countries primarily inhabited by people of color. To ignore the same standards when the country targeted is the one and only Jewish state is blatantly antisemitic. As a Jew I feel it attacks me personally.

It is misguided. It ignores the complexity of the situation, the legitimate concerns over safety and existence of all of Israel's inhabitants, many of whom are Jews who escaped persecution in Arab lands or whose families lived there for generations, long before the holocaust. It ignores the fact that Israel has repeatedly offered land for peace, only to be repeatedly rejected. It ignores the fact that Israel did leave Gaza, only to see it taken over by a terrorist organization whose stated goal is Israel's destruction. It ignores the millions of dollars that were given to build Gaza that were diverted instead to build rockets and tunnels to kill Jews. It ignores the hatred against Israel fomented by its elected leaders who have glorified and paid terrorists who targeted children, and make statements like (just in the last week or so): "We'll rip out their hearts from their bodies." It ignores the cultural genocide the

Palestinian Authority is fomenting in an attempt to deny and eradicate Jewish historical connections to the area that exist from biblical times. Abbas' advisor recently stated "[The Jews have] no connection to this land, not religiously or historically" This despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, including acknowledgement in documents from Jerusalems's Muslim leadership in the early 1900s.

It is counterproductive. If the city council truly cares about fair and just solutions to the problems faced by Palestinians and Jews, giving each a chance for safety, dignity, and self-determination, it must reject spiteful, one sided, biased and racist actions like this one. Why not instead create events and settings in which Palestinians and Israelis seeking peace can get together for mutual understanding and creation of solutions that address the needs and aspirations of both? Some of my best, most hopeful, friendship-promoting relationships with Palestinians and Muslims and other colleagues from Arab lands have been in Cambridge, in difficult but open conversations with mutual respect.

When I come across the river into Cambridge, I feel a rush of pride at an enlightened, educated, thoughtful and open community. If the council adopts this measure, Cambridge will forever be branded for me and many others as hateful, biased, spiteful and unwelcoming. Reject it for the harmful and counterproductive measure it is.

With deep respect for your service to our community,

Daniel Gruen